width of each short side surface on the lower surface was in a range of from 10 to 16 μm. The ratio of the projected area of the long side surfaces on the lower surface to the projected area of the short side surfaces on the lower surface was not smaller than 12. Incidentally, the prism-like irregularities were formed to start from a position 2 mm from the incidence side surface.

IN THE CLAIMS:

~~**Please enter the following amended claims:**~~

1. (Amended) A plane light source unit comprising:

a light pipe including an upper surface, a lower surface, and an incidence side surface, and including a light output means formed in said upper surface so that light incident on said incidence side surface exists from said lower surface through said light output means while light incident on said lower surface is transmitted through said upper surface; and

a linear light source disposed on said incidence side surface of said light pipe, said linear light source having an effective light emission region which is longer than a longitudinal length of said incidence side surface,

whereby said light incident on the lower surface of said light pipe is transmitted and made visible through the upper surface of said light pipe.

2. (Amended) A plane light source unit according to claim 1, wherein:

said light output means of said light pipe has a repetitive structure of prism-like irregularities arranged at intervals of a pitch in a range of from 50 μm to 1.0 mm, each of said

prism-like irregularities being constituted by a combination of a short side surface and a long side surface;

said short side surface is made of a slope inclined down from said incidence side surface toward an end side opposite to said incidence side surface at an inclination angle in a range of from 30 to 45 degrees with respect to a reference plane of said lower surface; and

said long side surface is made of a slope having an inclination angle in a range of from 0 to 10 degrees with respect to said reference plane, so that a difference between the inclination angles is not larger than 5 degrees as a whole, the difference between the inclination angles of adjacent long side surfaces is not larger than 1 degree, and a projected area of said long side surface on said reference plane is not smaller than five times as large as that of said short side surface.

4. (Amended) A plane light source unit according to claim 3, wherein each end of said effective light emission region of said linear light source protrudes by a distance not smaller than a value calculated by an expression: 1 mm + d · sinθ + d/2, from a corresponding end surface of said light pipe corresponding to a side in which said ridgeline of said prism-like irregularities of said light pipe drifts apart from said linear light source,

wherein θ is an inclination angle of said ridgeline of said prism-like irregularities with respect to said incidence side surface, and

d is a distance between said incidence side surface and a front end surface of said linear light source.